

April 8

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BILL NOW DROPPED

One of Four Measures Discarded for This Session

The intermediate school bill, which was on its way through second reading in the Legislature, has been dropped for this session. Premier Hepburn announced at the Parliament Buildings last night that the law was one of four which the Government would not proceed with.

The other bills to get the Government knife in the drive for an early prorogation are all in the Health Department. They are the Mental Hospitals Amendment Act, the Public Health Amendment Act, and the new act for the regulation of tourist camps.

The Administration had already put the knife to two or three public bills sponsored by private members and pruned its own program last night. The Premier stated the decision was made to expedite the closing business of the House.

Dropping of the intermediate school bill had been forecast at the Parliament Buildings as soon as the big school tax bill was brought down by the Premier last Friday. The Government, it was reported, did not wish to press through two controversial school items in the closing hours of the session, and there was plenty of indication that the intermediate school bill was going to be debated at length.

OLD-GOLD DEALERS TO BE LICENSED

Licenses for dealers in old gold are provided in the Municipal Amendment (omnibus) Act, which was being put through the Legislature yesterday. The dealers are to be licensed at a nominal fee. Other clauses of the bill follow:

1. Failure to give, or insufficient, notice of claim for injuries received due to non-repair of a road is not a bar to action for recovery of damages. The only exception is snow or ice upon a sidewalk.

2. A provision permits a Municipal Council to appoint to a Utility Commission persons already appointed by it to a Railway Commission and bring utilities generally under the same personnel, thereby effecting economy of management. The amendment is for the express purpose of authorizing the London Public Utilities Commission to assume control of the London & Port Stanley Railway operations.

3. An amendment is designed to enable County Council to meet earlier in the year. It may meet the second Wednesday in January, but under the present system a month elapses before the meeting.

POWER PACTS GET APPROVAL

Industrial Future Killed, Says Challies

"The industrial future of Eastern Ontario is absolutely dead under the effect of the power-purchase contracts entered into by the present Government," the Legislature was informed yesterday by G. H. Challies, former Provincial Secretary, during committee discussion of the new Quebec contract validation, which eventually was passed.

Two appeals from the rulings of Chairman J. H. Clark, Liberal member for Windsor-Sandwich, featured an attack on the contracts by Mr. Challies and Arthur Ellis, Ottawa Tory, during which both Conservatives sought unsuccessfully to draw Hydro Commissioners Arthur Roebuck and Hon. T. B. McQuesten into open debate.

Mr. Challies wanted to know how the Commission proposed to transmit both sixty-cycle and twenty-five-cycle current over the Eastern Ontario power lines.

"The Commissioners decline to answer on advice of counsel," interposed Hon. David Croll, Minister of Welfare.

Mr. Challies then demanded to know the present power costs in Eastern Ontario. The question was ruled out by the Chair, and on Mr. Challies's appeal the ruling was upheld by the House.

Mr. Challies then declared that Eastern Ontario would be industrially ruined by the present power policies of the Commission, and closed his argument with the charge that, since Mr. McQuesten had "said that Hydro was in the same relation to the Government as any other department," the entire Hydro question admittedly had been dragged into politics.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS WILL BE DEBATED

Report to Be Brought In Today

The Legislature will have more subject matter for debate after today when the Public Accounts Committee report is brought into the House. Opposition and Government speakers usually sum up the results of the committee's probes in the Legislature. If they do so this year it will be one more obstacle in the way of Easter prorogation.

The committee's inquiry into tie purchases of the Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway ended yesterday.

Documentary evidence was entered that John Clark, Englehart lumberman, was allowed \$882 in sales tax in 1925 on a 26,500 tie contract.

It was emphasized, Clark, described as a Conservative worker and an official of a Conservative association, had agreed under contract terms to pay the sales tax.

He received in all \$21,891 on the contract, which was limited originally to 15,000 ties. Evidence was given that the remainder of the ties were furnished under subcontracts negotiated by Mr. Clark.

J. J. Glass (Liberal, St. Andrew) associated with the Attorney-General in presenting the Government's brief, pointed out that the investigation was directed by Hon. W. H. Price (Cons., Parkdale) to go back as far as 1919 to the time of the Drury regime.

The member said he had read files of the period and found "many interesting things," but believed it would not serve any good purpose to go into them.

Game Act Amendment Brings Out Sportsmen

A SPORTSMEN'S debate on the use of dogs in deer-hunting enlivened the morning session of the Ontario Legislature yesterday. The matter arose during second reading of Hon. H. C. Nixon's bill to amend the Game and Fisheries Act, relaxing the dog-running restrictions.

G. H. Challies, Tory member for Grenville-Dundas, declared that the return of the dogs to deer-hunting was a grave mistake. It would result in the slaughter of many deer, he said. The abolition of dogs in deer-hunting he described as a most popular and valuable measure.

Mr. Challies obviously didn't know anything about deer-hunting, Mr. Nixon, the Minister of Game and Fisheries, declared. He said the

"unpopular banning of dogs" had contributed to the defeat of the Conservative Administration.

Neither one of the members knew much about deer-hunting, opined J. A. Craig, Tory member for Lanark. But he agreed with his fellow-Conservative that the resumed use of dogs would seriously deplete the ranks of the deer.

The humanitarian's point of view was contributed by Arthur Ellis, Tory member for Ottawa South, who told of deer being so exhausted in many hours of flight from pursuing dogs that the hunters could club them over the head when they fell from sheer weariness. His pleading for more consideration for the deer was futile, however, as the bill was given second reading.